

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Anchorage Field Office
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CX) FORM

CX No.: AK-040-04-CX-024

Lease/Serial/Case File No.: AA-079947

Proposed Action Title/Types:

Conduct a Removal Site Evaluation of the Nixon Fork Mine Site to determine if conditions at the Site warrant remedial action.

Location of Proposed Action: T. 26 S., R. 21 E., Secs. 12, 13, 24, and 25; and T. 26 S., R. 22 E., Secs. 7, 8, 17, 18, 19, and 20, Kateel River Meridian.

Description of Proposed Action: The purpose of this project is to conduct a Removal Site Evaluation (RSE) of the Nixon Fork Mine Site (Site) to enable the BLM to determine if Removal Actions under BLM's delegated CERCLA authority are required, and if so, to provide the BLM Anchorage Field Office (AFO) with sufficient information to make an informed decision on whether hazardous substances at the Site pose an imminent threat to human health and/or the environment, and whether Time-Critical or Non-Time-Critical removal action is warranted. A secondary purpose is the identification of any past, current, or potential imminent releases of oil at the Site that may require further attention under authority other than CERCLA.

The RSE, consisting of a Removal Preliminary Assessment (RPA) and a Removal Site Investigation (RSI), is to be conducted by a BLM contractor in accordance with 40 CFR 300.410 and .415 and the BLM CERCLA Response Actions Handbook. The primary focus areas of the RSE are the "Historic Mine" tailings impoundment; the "Modern Mine" mill tailings pond impoundment; and possible releases of oil and/or hazardous substances from a "Contaminated Soil Containment Pad", fuel pipelines and storage areas, drum/chemical storage or use areas, solid waste landfill, or any abandoned equipment at the Site.

The RPA component of the RSE involves records research and interviews. The RSI component of the RSE involves a 2-5 day site inspection, inventory, and sampling of soils, water, and materials found at the Site. Soil, water, and sediment samples are collected by a variety of hand held tools and augers. Sub-surface sampling is accomplished by soil boring using motorized drilling machines. A typical boring is 2-6 inches in diameter. Little or no surface disturbance will be created, soil boring spoil will be placed back in the respective bore hole and/or scattered about the immediate area, and the bore holes will be then capped with standard capping materials such as bentonite.

More detail about this proposed project may be found in the attached proposed contract Statement of Work and its Maps and Photographs attachment.

Applicant: Bureau of Land Management
Anchorage Field Office

PART I - PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW

This Proposed Action is subject to the following land use plan: Southwest Planning Area Management Framework Plan

Date Plan Approved: November 1981

The Proposed Action has been reviewed for conformance with this plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM MS 1617.3).

PART II - NEPA REVIEW

A. Categorical Exclusion Review.

This Proposed Action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 2, Appendix 1, 1.6., and 516 DM 6, Appendix 5.4., H-3. *Conducting preliminary hazardous materials assessments and site investigations, site characterization studies and environmental monitoring. Included is siting, construction, installation and/or operation of small monitoring devices such as wells, particulate dust counters and automatic air or water samplers.*

B. Departmental Exceptions Review.

The following Departmental List of Exceptions applies to individual actions. Departmental instructions mandate that environmental documents **MUST BE PREPARED** for actions which may: (Mark applicable answer for each item. If "yes", prepare an EA/EIS and append this form to it.)

- | | YES | NO |
|---|-----|----------|
| 1. Have significant adverse impacts on public health or safety. | ___ | <u>X</u> |
| 2. Have adverse effects on unique geographic characteristics, historic or cultural resources, park, recreation or refuge lands, wilderness areas, wild or scenic rivers, sole or principal drinking water aquifers, prime farmlands, wetlands, floodplains, or ecologically significant or critical areas, including those listed on the Department's National Register of Natural Landmarks. | ___ | <u>X</u> |
| 3. Have highly controversial environmental effects. | ___ | <u>X</u> |
| 4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks. | ___ | <u>X</u> |
| 5. Establish a precedent for future actions or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant | | |

YES NO

- | | | |
|-----|--|--------------|
| | environmental effects. | ___ <u>X</u> |
| 6. | Be directly related to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant environmental effects. | ___ <u>X</u> |
| 7. | Have adverse effects on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. | ___ <u>X</u> |
| 8. | Have adverse effects on species listed or proposed to be listed on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have adverse effects on designated critical habitat for these species. | ___ <u>X</u> |
| 9. | Require compliance with Executive Order 11988 (Flood plain Management), Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), or the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act. | ___ <u>X</u> |
| 10. | Threaten to violate a Federal, State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment. | ___ <u>X</u> |

I certify that none of the Departmental exceptions listed in the above Part B (516 DM 2, Appendix 2) apply to this action.

Remarks:

Preparer(s): Larry Beck Date: June 18, 2004

PART III - DECISION

I have reviewed this plan conformance and NEPA compliance record and have determined that the proposed project is in conformance with the approved land use plan and that no further environmental analysis is required. It is my decision to implement the project, as described, with the mitigation measures either identified below or stipulation(s) attached in this case file.

Remarks:

Authorized Official: /s/ June Bailey Date: June 18, 2004